

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 ABF-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 134207

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XG
SUBJECT: EUROPEAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF RFE/RL

REF: LONDON 6892, 6998, A-5136

1. IN VIEW GENERALLY POSITIVE UK ATTITUDE TOWARD CONTINUATION OF RFE AND RL REPORTED IN REFTEL, REQUEST EMBASSY APPROACH APPROPRIATE FOREIGN OFFICE LEVEL TO PURSUE DISCUSSION RFE/RL RESEARCH SUPPORT. EMBASSY SHOULD SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IF UK COULD, THROUGH ITS BONN EMBASSY, INDICATE TO FRG THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS MODALITIES OF MULTILATERAL CONSIDERATION AMONG THOSE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR RFE/RL RESEARCH.

2. WITH REGARD LEVEL OF SUPPORT AND RATIONALE FOR IT, EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT US OBJECTIVE IS ACHIEVEMENT FULL FUNDING OF STATION RESEARCH COSTS (APPROXIMATELY \$4 MILLION) THROUGH ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS EUROPRAN GOVERNMENTS. WE BELIEVE THIS REPRESENTS MINIMAL FAIR SHARE OF SUPPORT FOR OPERATIONS WHICH SERVE CLEAR WESTERN INTEREST IN MAINTAINING UNIQUE RFE/RL QUOTE SURROGATE HOME SERVICE END QUOTE TO PEOPLE OF USSR AND EAST EUROPE UNTIL INTERNAL MEDIA THERE BEGIN TO SATISFY INFORMATION NEEDS. RESEARCH
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PURCHASED ON PREVIOUS SUBSCRIPTION BASIS BY EUROPEANS
WOULD PROVIDE LITTLE MORE THAN TOKEN CONTRIBUTION AND NOT

GO FAR TO HELP TO PERSUADE ECONOMY-MINDED CONGRESS TO CONTINUE TO FUND MAJOR COSTS (\$50 MILLION IN FY 1974) OF RADIO OPERATIONS. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, LEAVE TO GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED TO DEVISE FORMULA BY WHICH THEY RATIONALIZED TO THEIR LEGISLATIVE BODIES INCREASED OUTLAYS FOR

RADIOS' RESEARCH PROGRAM.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING FOREGOING, EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE FOLLOWING REPLIES TO QUERIES IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF REFTTEL:

A. "PRODUCTS" INCLUDE RESEARCH PAPERS ALREADY BEING RECEIVED BY INFORMATION RESEARCH DEPT. ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL RESEARCH MATERIALS, PARTICULARLY TO RADIO LIBERTY'S EXTENSIVE SAMIZDAT COLLECTION COULD PROBABLY BE ARRANGED ON BASIS CERTAIN DISTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS.

B. THERE DO EXIST VARIOUS RATES FOR SALE OF RESEARCH AT PRESENT, ALTHOUGH NONE GREATER THAN PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS, BUT WE ANTICIPATE THESE WILL HAVE TO BE REVISED UPWARD.

C. UNDOUBTEDLY, ORGANIZATIONS WHICH CURRENTLY GET RESEARCH FREE OR AT LITTLE CHARGE WILL NEED TO PAY MORE FOR IT IN FUTURE. (THIS LIKELIHOOD ENHANCES IDEA THAT GOVERNMENTS MIGHT BE ACTING AS COLLECTIVE PURCHASER.)

D. RECIPIENTS OF RFE AND RL RESEARCH PRODUCT INCLUDE SEVERAL DOZEN UNIVERSITIES AND INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARS, BBC, BRITISH COUNCIL, CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

4. YOU MAY INFORM UK OFFICIALS THAT TO DATE GOVERNMENTS OF NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM AND FRG HAVE INDICATED THEY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO SOME FORM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO RFE AND RL. ITALY ALSO GIVING FAVORABLE CONSIDER-
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ATION. PORTUGAL HAS ALREADY AGREED WAIVE ANNUAL RFE LICENSE FEE OF \$70,000 FOR TRANSMITTERS IN PORTUGAL. ROGERS

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